

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to clarify them and to define the scope of the claimed invention more clearly.

Claim Rejections - claims 1, 7, 13 and 16

Claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Rosensteel et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,167,405) in view of Coker (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,550).

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7, 13 and 16 as amended are clearly patentable over Rosensteel in view of Coker.

Rosensteel teaches a system in which data from a source database 18 is extracted, transferred, transformed and loaded into a target database 20 (column 4, lines 40-41). The target database 20 implements a data warehouse (column 4, lines 50-52). A Data Replication Manager (DRM) provides a visual interface allowing the system administrator to develop warehouse requests to move data from one database system to another (column 5, lines 5-8). A warehouse designer client component 12-4 captures the data models of the different databases (column 5, lines 18-21). A data model represents the objects that make up an application environment plus the relationships among those objects (column 5, lines 21-25).

However, there is clearly no suggestion in Rosensteel of creating a source file containing a plurality of directives and then automatically pre-processing the source file, by replacing the directives with code, to generate an executable destination file.

Coker describes a system which allows a COBOL program to effectively generate SQL statements for accessing data from an SQL-oriented database (abstract, lines 1-6). The system uses an

interface module 5 which receives COBOL statements and, using information contained in a data dictionary 4, generates the appropriate SQL statements (abstract, lines 7-13). The data dictionary 4 maps the COBOL records to the fields in the SQL database 8 based on an analysis of the COBOL program during compilation (column 4, lines 58-61).

However, there is clearly no suggestion in Coker of replacing the COBOL statements with SQL statements, to generate an executable destination file. Moreover, Coker's data dictionary 4 is clearly not a set of entity-relationship data models defining a multi-dimensional data warehouse and source databases.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that even if the teachings of Rosensteel and Coker were combined as suggested by the examiner, this would still not have taught or suggested the present invention to a person skilled in the art.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that in any case it would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to have combined the teachings of Rosensteel and Coker. Rosensteel (like the present invention) is concerned with the problem of initially creating and populating a data warehouse. Coker, on the other hand, is not concerned with creating and populating a data warehouse or any other kind of database. On the contrary, Coker is concerned with allowing a COBOL program to access and use data from an existing SQL database.

Claim Rejections - claims 2 and 8

Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Rosensteel et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,167,405) in view of Coker (U.S. Patent Number 5,640,550) and further in view of Novalis (Access 97 Macro & VBA Handbook, 1997) and Backes et al (U.S. Patent Number 5,231,693).

Claim 2 has been deleted without prejudice.

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7 and so it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is clearly patentable over Rosensteel in view of Coker, Novalis and Backes, for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 7.

Moreover, although Novalis and Backes describe the use of macros, it is respectfully submitted that they clearly do not teach or suggest the use of run-time macros in the particular manner as defined in the amended claim 8.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied on has been carefully considered, and it is believed that it does not teach or suggest the present invention.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that this application is clearly in order for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

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